

each fully surround the respective cooling tube 50. Clearances 80 and 82 may be from 4 millimeters to 12 millimeters. In a refinement, clearance 80 and 82 may be approximately 8 millimeters, and still more particularly approximately 7.9 millimeters, within measurement error. It will be appreciated that as cooling tube 50 expands and shrinks in response to temperature changes, and experiences vibrations, bending loads or twisting loads, the clearances or gaps 80 and 82 can prevent interference between the respective parts that can lead to material stress, fatigue failure, deformation, cracking, or other problems. It can also be noted yet another clearance 84 extends between clamping plate 64 and header 44. As bolts 66 are rotated into engagement with header 44, seal retainer 72 can be clamped down against pack seal 70 to a specified clamping load, squeezing pack seal 60 radially inward, radially outward, and axially between header 44 and seal retainer 72. Providing clearance 84 can enable a controlled clamping load to be applied without bottoming out based on contact between clamping plate 64 and header 44. Still other features of header assembly 38 are shown in FIG. 5, and it can be noted that cooling tube 50 defines a longitudinal axis 100 extending between inlet tube end and outlet tube end 54, and forms a plurality of flow passages 51, in a single row in cooling tube 50 and arranged side-by-side. Cooling tube 50 can include a one-piece extrusion, for example, formed of aluminum. In other embodiments, a greater number of flow passages, or only one or two flow passages might be employed. Moreover, a header assembly as contemplated herein could include only one cooling tube, with or without attached heat dissipation fins, or a greater number of cooling tubes than illustrated in the attached drawings, such as eight, ten, twenty or still more.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0019] When machine system 10 is operated in service, turbocharger 18 is rotated based upon an exhaust output of machine 12 to rotate compressor 20, and feed compressed air increased in temperature into inlet tank 42. The temperature of compressed air supplied to inlet tank 42 can be increased from an ambient temperature by hundreds of degrees C., for example up to at least 250° C. The hot compressed air is then fed through cooling tubes 50 to exchange heat with a flow of cooling air produced by fan 34. The compressed air that is cooled is fed to outlet tank 36 and then to cylinders 17 for combustion.

[0020] As discussed above the thermal stress and other conditions experienced by certain components of cooler 40, including header assembly 38 during service, can be severe. The relatively high temperatures, temperature changes, expansion and contraction of materials, shocks, loads, vibrations, et cetera, render the requirements for supporting cooling tubes 50 in header 44 quite stringent, if cracking or other problems are to be avoided. It will be recalled that pack seals 60 provide for fluid sealing between header 44 and cooling tubes 50 to avoid leakage of compressed air, while still allowing cooling tubes 50 to expand, contract, twist, bend, etc., by way of clearances between cooling tubes 50 and clamping plate 64 and header 44. Even during such conditions, pack seals 60 can flex to maintain the fluid sealing of the joints between header 44 and cooling tubes 50. It should also be appreciated that the disclosed range for the size of clearance 80 enables the desired flexibility of the joint supporting cooling tube 50 while also providing a

desired clamping load and clamping pattern upon each pack seal 60. In other words, the size of clearance 80 can be understood to balance providing a suitable clamping load in a suitable clamping direction upon pack seal 60, while also accommodating the desired flexibility in the joint formed between cooling tube 50 and header 44.

[0021] The present description is for illustrative purposes only, and should not be construed to narrow the breadth of the present disclosure in any way. Thus, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications might be made to the presently disclosed embodiments without departing from the full and fair scope and spirit of the present disclosure. Other aspects, features and advantages will be apparent upon an examination of the attached drawings and appended claims. As used herein, the articles “a” and “an” are intended to include one or more items, and may be used interchangeably with “one or more.” Where only one item is intended, the term “one” or similar language is used. Also, as used herein, the terms “has,” “have,” “having,” or the like are intended to be open-ended terms. Further, the phrase “based on” is intended to mean “based, at least in part, on” unless explicitly stated otherwise.

What is claimed:

1. A machine system comprising:

a compressor having an air inlet, and a compressed air outlet;

a cooler including an inlet tank, a header attached to the inlet tank and having an inlet header side and a second header side opposite to the inlet header side, and a cooling tube;

the cooling tube including an inlet tube end supported in the header and opening to the inlet tank and an outlet tube end arranged to feed cooled air to a machine in the machine system, and the cooling tube having at least one external heat exchange surface exposed to a flow of cooling air between the inlet tube end and the outlet tube end; and

the cooler further including a pack seal extending peripherally around the cooling tube, and a clamping assembly coupled to the second header side and clamping the pack seal against the header, such that the pack seal is squeezed into sealing contact with each of the cooling tube and the header.

2. The machine system of claim 1 wherein the pack seal is formed of flexible graphite packing material.

3. The machine system of claim 1 wherein the clamping assembly includes a clamping plate and a plurality of clamping bolts received in the header.

4. The machine system of claim 3 wherein a seal cavity is formed in the header and the pack seal is positioned within the seal cavity.

5. The machine system of claim 4 wherein the cooler further includes a seal retainer sandwiched between the clamping plate and the pack seal.

6. The machine system of claim 5 wherein a first clearance extends between the cooling tube and the seal retainer, and a second clearance larger than the first clearance extends between the cooling tube and the clamping plate.

7. The machine system of claim 6 wherein the second clearance is from 4 mm to 12 mm.

8. The machine system of claim 1 wherein:

a plurality of flow passages are formed in the cooling tube;